Approved For Release 2006/01/17 : CIA-RDP79R00904A000500020058-4

2 May 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: NIE 11-6-60: STRENGTH OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE USSR

1. On 14 January 1960 Khrushchev announced the personnel strength of the Soviet armed forces as 3,623,000. In NIE 11-4-59, published 9 February 1960, USIB stated its belief that this figure should be accepted as substantially correct. The present estimate is based upon a detailed reexamination of the evidence concerning the strength of Soviet armed forces; it tends to support Khrushchev's statement.

2. Despite footnotes, the amount of disagreement among agencies is remarkably small; it concerns no more than about 40,000 men. The Board of National Estimates does not believe, however, that the evidence would justify distributing 40,000 additional men in the places where footnotes have been taken. If this were done, an application of comparable critical standards to the evidence would probably require adding greater numbers to other categories in the

25X1

Approved For Release 2006/01/17 : CIA-RDP79R00904A000500020058-4

Approved For Release 2006/01/17 : CIA-RDP79R00904A000500020058-4

[redacted]

estimate. The Board does believe that 5,000 men added to the Research and Development category, under Ministry of Defense, would be least objectionable.

FOR THE BOARD OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES:

ABBOT SMITH
Acting Chairman

[redacted]

Approved For Release 2006/01/17 : CIA-RDP79R00904A000500020058-4